

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF PLENARY MEETING,
JUNE 27, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 252

1. SUMMARY: JOHNSON (US) PRESENTED US PROPOSALS ON NUMBER AND LOCATION OF NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS IN USSR AT JUNE 27 PLENARY. EDMONDS (UK) WELCOMED PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTED THAT TECHNICAL ADVISERS CONSIDER THE SUBJECT IN DETAIL. PETROSYANTS (USSR) WELCOMED US COMPLETION OF PROPOSALS ON NSS AND SAID SOVDEL WOULD STUDY THEM AND RESPOND LATER. ON CAPABILITY OF NSS TO ENHANCE CONFIDENCE, HE COMMENTED THAT EVEN US NSS PROPOSAL MIGHT NOT SATISFY SKEPTICS IN SOME COUNTRIES. IN RESTRICTED POST-PLENARY MEETING, HE SAID THAT WITHIN SOVIET DEL THERE WERE STILL SOME DOUBTS WHETHER NSS WERE NEEDED WITHIN US OR UK. HE AGAIN RAISED
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ISSUE OF ARTICLE I (ON MAIN PROHIBITION), PRESSING FOR INDICATION OF WHEN US WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHNSON DELIVERED STATEMENT (SEPTTEL) PROPOSING LOCATIONS FOR FIFTEEN SINGLE NSS TO BE DEPLOYED IN THE USSR, WITH AT LEAST TWO TO BE UPGRADED TO ARRAYS. HE NOTED THAT US HAD

ASSUMED CERTAIN NOISE LEVELS FOR THE LOCATIONS SUGGESTED, WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL IN A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP. US DEL PROPOSALS FOR NSS WERE NOW LAID OUT IN FULL, AND JOHNSON HOPED IT WOULD NOW BE POSSIBLE TO PRESS FORWARD WITH SERIOUS NEGOTIATION ON THIS SUBJECT. EDMONDS (UK) WELCOMED THE US DEL PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBJECT BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL BY TECHNICAL ADVISERS.

3. PETROSYANTS THANKED JOHNSON FOR COMPLETING THE US DEL PRESENTATION ON NSS. HE NOTED THAT WHILE IT WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL STUDY, HE HAD SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS. WHILE US DEL HAD SAID THAT NSS WOULD REDUCE UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT COMPLIANCE, THIS MIGHT ONLY BE TRUE FOR SOME GROUPS OF PEOPLE. OTHER GROUPS MIGHT HAVE THEIR OWN POINTS OF VIEW AND EXPRESS THEM. IN ANY EVENT, SOVIET DEL WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT NSS WOULD SOLVE PROBLEM OF VERIFICATION. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO STOP TESTING AND FOR COUNTRIES TO COMPLY WITH THE TREATY.

4. IN RESTRICTED POST-PLENARY MEETING, PETROSYANTS OFFERED NO FURTHER REACTIONS TO DETAILS OF US PROPOSAL ON NSS. HE SAID SOVIET DEL HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN GIVING GENERAL THOUGHT TO NSS QUESTION AND "WE STILL HAVE SOME DOUBTS WHETHER NSS ARE NEEDED IN THE US OR THE UK." PETROSYANTS AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF ARTICLE I, PRESSING
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THE US DEL TO INDICATE WHEN IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ISSUE. JOHNSON SAID THIS ISSUE WAS IMPORTANT AND WE WERE GIVING IT PRIORITY. JOHNSON

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